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Message Text

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10
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 ACDA-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 /082 W
---------- 057403
R 072045Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 999
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2819

DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA AND DIA

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, MARR, TK, UK, US
SUBJECT: NEW BRITISH GOVERNOR OF TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
ADVISES CARE IN RENEGOTIATING US BASES AGREEMENT

1. BRITISH CHARGE HAS SHOWN ME COPY OF INTERESTING FIRST DESPATCH OF NEW UK GOVERNOR OF TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, A.C. WATSON. AFTER PRAISING US NAVAL AND AIR FORCE BASE COMMANDERS FOR READINESS TO HELP GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY IN EVERY WAY THEY CAN, WATSON IDENTIFIES FOLLOWING SERIOUS DISADVANTAGES OF U.S. BASES FOR FUTURE OF ISLANDS:

(A) BASES CONSTITUTE MAJOR CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGNERS ON ISLAND OF GRAND TURK, CONSPICUOUS YET LIVING MAINLY IN CLASSIC ENCLAVE FASHION.

(B) ALTHOUGH UK DERIVES MUCH BENEFIT FROM SERVICES BASES PROVIDE, THIS HELP IS STERILE IN THAT IT YIELDS NO INCREMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY, EXPERIENCE AND SKILL; CONSEQUENTLY LOCAL ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE TOWARD AIRPORT AND HARBOR DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL IS SUPINE, INCOMPETENT, AND IGNORANT.
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(C) IN ECONOMIC TERMS, BASES ARE ALSO STERILE, SINCE HIGHLY

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SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC INSTALLATONS CAN EMPLOY MAINLY UNSKILLED
OR SEMI-SKILLED LOCAL LABOR, WITH NO CHANCE OF PROVIDING
TECHNOLOGICAL OR MANAGERIAL EMPLOYMENT.

(D) BASES MOREOVER PROVIDE LIMITTED STIMULUS TO LOCAL SHOPS AND

OTHER UNDERTAKINGS; BECAUSE OF THEIR ALTERNATIVE ATTRACTION, THEY
MAY ACTUALLY DISCOURAGE GROWTH IN SOME ACTIVITIES.

2. WATSON CONCLUDES THAT IF THE TRUE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS ARE TO BE PROPERLY SERVED, RENEGOTIATION
OF BASES AGREEMENT IN 1977 WILL NEED TO BE VERY CAREFULLY
CONSIDERED.

3. DEPT CAN OBTAIN FULL TEXT OF DESPATCH FROM BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON.
ISHAM

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